

CALIFORNIA RESEARCH BUREAU
CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY
Studies in the News

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

June 1908: Los Angeles Becoming Flightiest City As World Center of Airship Activity. Los Angeles is suddenly springing into world-wide prominence as an airship center. The plans of its aeroplane inventors, which include a startling flight within three weeks, are attracting notice everywhere. "I think our flight will make the Wright brothers sit up and take notice," remarked [Daniel J.] Johnson as he sat on the slight seat of his aeroplane in the front yard of his residence yesterday, while a group of curious boys fingered the steel parts and listened, all ears, to his description of what, for want of a better name, he calls a dirigible aerodome. "We don't need a track, a hill or anything of the kind. We fly." We fly. He said it just as naturally as he might remark that he was going to the next corner to take a Main street car. *Los Angeles Times* (June 7, 1908) pg. III.

June 1908: Novelty Airship. Submarine Boat Man Thinks He Has Solved Aerial Navigation. Combination of Aeroplane, Dirigible Balloon and Heliocentre. Machine So Constructed That It Will Float If It Falls Into Sea. Plans of the new style airship invented by Simon Lake, the submarine boat builder, were made public this afternoon, together with information that preparations for building the ship were already actively underway. In his application for patents, Mr. Lake says that the objects of his invention are to provide an airship of great stability which will permit safe and easy descents in case of failure on its propelling or steering mechanism. The invention, he says, will provide a cushioning device...relieving the ship of sudden jars or shocks should it come violently into contact with the earth when making a landing. It is the intention of Mr. Lake to enter his new ship in the international airship race in 1909. *Los Angeles Times* (June 11, 1908) pg. I2.

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Introduction to Studies in the News

Studies in the News is a current compilation of items significant to the Legislature and Governor's Office. It is created weekly by the State Library's [California Research Bureau](#) to supplement the public policy debate in California. To help share the latest information with state policymakers, these reading lists are now being made accessible through the State Library's website. This week's list of current articles in various public policy areas is presented below. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at www.library.ca.gov/sitn

- When available, the URL for the full text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact the State Information & Reference Center (916-654-0261; csinfo@library.ca.gov) with the SITN issue number and the item number [S#].
- All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.

The following studies are currently on hand:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

CHILD PROTECTION

CW360: Children of Incarcerated Parents. By Creasie Finney Hairston, University of Illinois, and others. (Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare, Saint Paul, Minnesota) Spring 2008. 36 p.

Full text at: <http://cehd.umn.edu/SSW/cascw/attributes/PDF/publications/CW360.pdf>

["When a parent is incarcerated the family faces numerous challenges. For some families this includes involvement with the child welfare system. This circumstance presents unique challenges for families, as well as for child welfare. We seek to understand the experiences and outcomes of children of incarcerated parents and their families as they receive services in the child welfare system. We also present information on system and community responses to these families; strategies to engage and help these families; and resources to support child welfare workers' efforts in addressing the challenges associated with cases involving children of incarcerated parents and their families."]

[Request #S08-35-2272]

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JUVENILE JUSTICE

Youth Courts: An Empirical Update and Analysis of Future Organizational and Research Needs. By Jeffery Schneider, Hamilton Fish Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) 2008. 48 p.

Full text at: http://hamfish.org/Publications/Serial/HFI_Youth_Courts_Report.pdf

[“This report examines the day-to-day operations, volunteer activity, long-term functioning and resources available to the programs. The study is based on a national survey of youth courts that focused on program outcomes and administration. The findings provide guidance on how youth courts can build and sustain a sound organizational structure using volunteers and ex-offenders to prevent delinquent youth from repeating anti-social behaviors.”]
[Request #S08-35-2235]

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PRISONS

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation: Building a Condemned Inmate Complex at San Quentin May Cost More Than Expected. By the California Bureau of State Audits. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) June 2008. 40 p.

Full text at: <http://www.bsa.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2007-120.1.pdf>

["Analyses by our consultant suggest that the cost to construct the condemned inmate complex (CIC) will exceed Corrections' recent estimate. Although Corrections reasonably estimated construction costs, it was precluded from applying realistic escalation rates, and delays from the anticipated start date will add to project costs. Additionally, Corrections did not include the costs to activate and operate the CIC in its estimated costs. Our consultant estimates that the cost to construct the CIC will exceed Corrections' estimate of \$356 million by \$39.3 million and that the cost to activate the new CIC will reach \$7.3 million. Furthermore, our consultant estimates that the average new staffing costs to operate the new CIC will average \$58.8 million per year, for a total of approximately \$1.2 billion over the next 20 years."]
[Request #S08-35-2500]

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VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

Measuring the Effects of Video Surveillance on Crime in Los Angeles. By Aundreia Cameron and others, University of Southern California. CRB-08-007. (California Research Bureau, Sacramento, California) May 2008. 91 p.

Full text at: <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/08/08-007.pdf>

["Our statistical analysis of crime and arrest data before and after implementation found: 1) Neither cameras in Jordan Downs nor Hollywood Boulevard had any statistically significant effect in reducing the overall monthly crime rates within the target areas;... 2) The evidence on the displacement of crime is mixed; in both locations, some crimes increased at a faster rate in buffer areas (between 500 and 1000 feet), while other crimes decreased at a faster rate in these same areas; however, the results were not statistically significant; and 3) CCTV had no statistically significant effect on monthly arrest rates for misdemeanor 'quality of life' infractions in either Jordan Downs or Hollywood Boulevard."]
[Request #S08-35-2461]

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CULTURE AND SOCIETY

MEDIA

Using the Media to Promote Adolescent Well-Being. By Elisabeth Hirschhorn Donahue and others, The Future of Children. (The Future of Children, Princeton, New Jersey) Spring 2008. 8 p.

Full text at: http://www.futureofchildren.org/usr_doc/FOC_Brief_Spring08.pdf

["Adolescent media use has exploded. Parents are worried that teens are drowning in messages about sex, smoking, drinking, consumer goods, and a host of other behaviors and products that threaten their health and well-being. This brief advocates fighting fire with fire by creative use of media to provide youth with positive messages that counteract the negative and potentially damaging messages to which they are so frequently exposed.... Nonprofit groups are beginning to increase their efficacy by making more creative use of the media -- both old and new -- to reach and hold teens on their own terrain.... They can also turn to their advantage the new social networking that teens are using to share their own content -- news, messages, videos, artwork, and stories."]
[Request #S08-35-2478]

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DEMOGRAPHY

IMMIGRATION

Immigrant Pathways to Legal Permanent Residence: Now and Under a Merit-Based System. By Joseph M. Hayes and Laura E. Hill, Public Policy Institute of California. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) June 2008. 28 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=768>

["The report analyzed the paths immigrants take to become legal permanent residents -- the first step toward U.S. citizenship -- and found them anything but straightforward.... They found that only 33 percent of immigrants in California granted permanent-residency status were traditional 'new arrivals.' Fifteen percent came as students, tourists or on other temporary visas. But the surprising finding was that 18 percent had overstayed visas, and 35 percent were illegal border crossers. 'It's very common for immigrants to move from illegal to legal status,' Hill said. Probably the most common way, she said, is to marry a U.S. citizen." San Jose Mercury News (June 5, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-35-2488]

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ECONOMY

AEROSPACE INDUSTRY

Aerospace States' Incentives To Attract The Industry: An Update. By Rosa Moller, California Research Bureau, California State Library. CRB-08-005. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) May 2008. 125 p.

Full text at: <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/08/08-005.pdf>

["The presence of the aerospace industry in the state is still strong. A significant proportion of aerospace electronic components and parts are produced in California and the state has a leading role in space activities and programs. California, can enhance the competitiveness of its aerospace industry by offering (as other states are doing) a variety of incentives discussed in this paper. One of the industry's main challenges is that its current workers are approaching retirement age and it will be difficult to replace them, since the pool of labor with the skills required by aerospace activities is limited. Hence, the support of development programs that enhance these skills in the labor force is important."]
[Request #S08-35-2467]

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CALIFORNIA

The Impact of Extending Marriage to Same-Sex Couples on the California Budget. By Brad Sears and M.V. Lee Badgett, the Williams Institute, University of California, Los Angeles. (The Institute, Los Angeles, California) June 2008. 15 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/publications/EconImpactCAMarriage.pdf>

["A study projects that same-sex marriages will pour nearly \$684 million into California's economy over the next three years, with more than 118,000 gay and lesbian couples from California and out of state exchanging vows. That includes nearly \$64 million going to state and local government coffers. It will be fueled by spending by both California and out-of-state couples and related tourism.... Weddings are an enormous business in the United States, accounting for a \$65 billion-plus industry. More than 2.3 million weddings are expected to be performed in the United States in 2009 at an average cost of \$30,860." Sacramento Bee (June 12, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-35-2517]

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SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

Human Capital in the Bay Area: Why an Educated, Flexible Workforce Is Vital to Our Economic Future. By Jennifer Susskind and Cynthia Kroll, University of California, Berkeley. (Bay Area Council Economic Institute, San Francisco, California) February 2008. 68 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.bayeconfor.org/media/files/pdf/HumanCapitalintheBayAreaWeb.pdf>

["Bay Area residents in many cases appear ready to meet the challenges of the knowledge economy. The population is, overall, more educated and more capable of participating in the global economy than ever before.... Despite these promising attributes, real human capital challenges remain. The Bay Area's public primary and secondary schools perform unevenly. Limited funding hampers some school districts' ability to prepare graduates for entry-level employment opportunities, vocational training programs, and colleges and universities.... There is also a real risk that industry will relocate or resist locating in the Bay Area due to the high cost of living, growing commute times, and deficiencies in the public school system. Employers of mid-skilled workers may be particularly at risk."]

[Request #S08-35-2477]

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Sustaining the Bay Area's Competitiveness in a Globalizing World. By McKinsey & Company and the Bay Area Council Economic Institute. (The Insitute, San Francisco, California) March 2008. 47 p.

Full text at: <http://www.bayeconfor.org/media/files/pdf/BayAreaProfile2008.pdf>

["The Bay Area faces several challenges that could limit its ability to attract and retain the workers and companies that help it thrive. The cost of doing business is comparable to other cities in the United States, but generally higher than international locations. Housing is expensive and many commuters suffer long delays on clogged highways. Although the region's research universities are well respected, its K-12 students perform at a lower level on many standard tests than students in other states or elsewhere in the world. The region has difficulty keeping its graduates, who often migrate elsewhere in the U.S. What's more, tightening immigration restrictions in the U.S. have crimped the region's ability to attract the best and brightest students (as well as workers) from around the globe."]

[Request #S08-35-2476]

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EDUCATION

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Alternative Education Options: A Descriptive Study of California Continuation High Schools. By Greg Austin, WestEd, and others. (WestEd, Los Angeles, California) 2008. 12 p.

Full text at: <http://gardnercenter.stanford.edu/docs/AEO%20Issue%20Brief%204-26-08fin.pdf>

["Over 115,000 California high school students will pass through one of the state's 519 continuation high schools each year, either on their way to a diploma, or to dropping out of school altogether. This study concludes that continuation schools may be the last schools ever attended by many California students because they are not getting the academic and support services they need to succeed. The modern continuation school now serves a diverse student population.... more likely to be racially or ethnically concentrated than those in the state's comprehensive high schools. Continuation students are more likely to move from school to school and, as a result, spend less time in any one school. Especially disconcerting is the high rate of substance use at school."]

[Request #S08-35-2287]

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Seizing the Middle Ground: Why Middle School Creates the Pathway to College and the Workforce. By Jeannie Oakes, University of California, Los Angeles. (United Way of Greater Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California) May 2008. 98 p.

Full text at: <http://69.65.15.147/QOL08edufull.pdf>

["Middle schools are critical to the future success of our students yet they have been largely ignored in the debate on education reform. This report examines the state of middle schools in L.A. County and the importance of middle grades on higher education, youth development, and eventual workforce readiness. Key finding include: 1) for every 100 entering 9th grade only 57 graduated after four years; 2) about 7 in 10 middle schools serving low income populations are failing federal education standards; 3) schools with 90% minority enrollment (Latino or African American) face extreme shortages of qualified teachers; and 4) half of all students do not feel safe at school; 48% of 7th graders report being harassed, pushed or shoved at least one time."]

[Request #S08-35-2288]

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GRADUATION RATES

Predicting Success, Preventing Failure: An Investigation of the California High School Exit Exam. By Andrew C. Zau and Julian R. Betts, Public Policy Institute of California (The Institute, San Francisco, California) 2008. 95 p.

Full text at: http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_608AZR.pdf

["Students at risk of failing California's high school exit exam can be identified as early as the fourth grade, which has broad implications for when educators should offer remedial help... Classroom behavior in the elementary grades is more important than math and reading test scores in predicting performance. Students classified as English learners in fourth grade are as likely to pass as their peers who are otherwise similar, but those who are still considered English learners by ninth grade are less likely to pass; and high school teachers' qualifications such as education level, credentials and years of teaching experience play just a small role in how well students do on the exit exam." San Francisco Chronicle (June 11, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-35-2522]

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Taking the Easy Way Out: How the GED Testing Program Induces Students to Drop Out. By James J. Heckman, University of Chicago, and others. (National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts) May 2008. 45 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nber.org/tmp/67600-w14044.pdf>

["We exploit an exogenous increase in General Educational Development (GED) testing requirements to determine whether raising the difficulty of the test causes students to finish high school rather than drop out and GED certify. We find that a six point decrease in GED pass rates induces a 1.3 point decline in overall dropout rates. The effect size is also much larger for older students and minorities. Finally, a natural experiment based on the late introduction of the GED in California reveals that adopting the program increased the dropout rate by 3 points more relative to other states during the mid-1970s."]

[Request #S08-35-2497]

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HIGHER EDUCATION

Who Can Afford it? How Rising Costs are Making College Unaffordable for Working Families: Draft. By the Staff of the California Postsecondary Education Commission. (The Commission, Sacramento, California) June 2008. 8 p.

Full text at: http://www.cpec.ca.gov/agendas/agenda0806/item_06.pdf

["Increases in the cost of attending college is one reason some people think a college education is becoming unattainable. More important is the widening gap between families in the high-income brackets and low- and middle-income families. A university education appears affordable for top earners, but is not for low- and middle-income families whose incomes have not kept pace with inflation.... When costs increase and income levels do not, there is an inevitable tendency to weigh the pros and cons and to wonder if the benefit of a college degree will outweigh the debt one acquires to earn that degree.... The need to borrow large sums of money to finance education may be creating a barrier to access, and may discourage some families from sending their children to college."]

[Request #S08-35-2501]

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EMPLOYMENT

JOB TRAINING

Workforce Development: Community Colleges and One-Stop Centers Collaborate to Meet 21st Century Workforce Needs. By the U.S.. Government Accountability Office. GAO-08-547. (The Office, Washington, DC) May 2008. 46 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08547.pdf>

["Through a variety of outreach, relationship building, and data collection efforts, community colleges have come to understand the specific training needs of key industries in their regions and use this information to keep programs current or develop new programs to address these needs. Community college activities include providing contract or customized training to the employees of specific employers; working with small businesses; and targeting training and education programs to specific populations, such as disadvantaged adults, high-school students transitioning to college, and one-stop clients.... Community college and workforce officials cited state funding and leadership as factors that help integration between community colleges and the workforce system."]

[Request #S08-35-2335]

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WORKPLACE SAFETY

Work-Related Injury Deaths Among Hispanics: United States, 1992–2006. By the Centers for Disease Control. IN: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, vol. 57, no. 22 (June 6, 2008) pp. 597-600.

Full text at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5722a1.htm>

["Hispanic workers die at higher rates than other laborers, with 1 in 3 of these deaths occurring in the construction industry. Hispanics tend to hold more high-risk jobs than those in other racial groups, but language and literacy barriers and poor training and supervision may also be factors, researchers said. The leading causes of death in recent years have been falls and highway-related accidents.... The researchers calculated an annual death rate of 5 per 100,000 Hispanic workers in 2006. The rate for non-Hispanic white workers was 4. For blacks, it was 3.7.... In 2003 through 2006, the highest numbers of Hispanic work-related deaths were in California, with 773 deaths; Texas, with 687; and Florida, with 417." Associated Press (June 5, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-35-2384]

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

GREEN HOUSE GASES

Expert Opinion on the Economics of Policy Options to Address Climate Change.
By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-08-605. (The Office,
Washington, DC) May 2008.81 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08605.pdf>

["All of the panelists agreed that the Congress should consider using a market-based mechanism to establish a price on greenhouse gas emissions.... To establish a price on emissions, most of the panelists preferred either a tax on emissions or a hybrid policy that incorporates features of both a tax and a cap-and-trade program.... Further, the majority of panelists agreed that the United States should establish a price on greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible regardless of the extent to which other countries adopt similar policies.... Finally, panelists said an important strength of using a market-based approach is the ability for the government to raise revenue through a tax or the sale of emissions permits and to use that revenue to offset the adverse effects of the policy."]

[Request #S08-35-2487]

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LAND USE

Connecting Transportation Decision Making with Responsible Land Use: State and Regional Policies, Programs, and Incentives. By Gary Binger and others,
Mineta Transportation Institute, San José State University. (The Institute, San
Jose, California) February 2008. 188 p

Full text at: <http://transweb.sjsu.edu/mtiportal/research/publications/documents/07-03.pdf>

["Success in linking transportation planning with land use decision making most likely depends on creating context-specific strategies. In an area that heavily values local land use control and private property rights, it seems that incentives are the most appropriate. In a state with a history of strong public visioning, a regulatory 'top-down' approach may be the best way to ensure that local and regional land use decisions meet state criteria.... The evolving nature of state politics poses a recurring barrier to program implementation. Too often the changes in administration that come with elections interrupt growth management programs carefully planned by previous administrations."]

[Request #S08-35-2494]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

PROPOSITION 13

Cal-Tax 2008: Proposition 13 Revisited. By the California Taxpayers' Association. (The Association, Sacramento, California) June 2008. 18 p.

Full text at: <http://www.caltax.org/Prop13Revisited.pdf>

["Proposition 13, enacted 30 years ago by California voters, has created a stable and predictable property tax system, and has not shifted the tax burden from businesses to homeowners... Prop 13 has also made the property tax a relatively stable source of revenue for local government. The state's real estate market has gone through major ups and downs during the past 30 years, but thanks to the 'acquisition value' assessment system enacted by Proposition 13, the assessed values upon which taxes are levied have increased every year, at an average rate of 8.4 percent per year."] [Request #S08-35-2498]

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HEALTH

CHILDREN

Growing Pains for the Los Angeles Healthy Kids Program: Findings from the Second Evaluation Case Study. By Ian Hill, the Urban Institute, and others. Prepared for First 5 LA and the California Endowment. (The Institute, Washington, DC)) April 2008. 61 p.

Full text at:

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411653_LA_kids_growing_pains.pdf

"[The Los Angeles Healthy Kids program, during its first four years, extended comprehensive, affordable coverage to over 40,000 poor and vulnerable children, and improved their access to and use of care. Yet, the program also faced serious challenges, primarily related to financing. Funding for children ages 6 through 18 ran short in spring 2005 and Healthy Kids capped their enrollment. State health reform efforts that could have stabilized funding for the program have failed. Based on interviews with over 40 stakeholders, this case study analyzes the complex challenges that the Los Angeles Healthy Kids program faces at this critical juncture."] [Request #S08-35-2262]

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HEALTH INSURANCE

On The Road To Universal Coverage: Impacts Of Reform In Massachusetts At One Year. By Sharon K. Long. IN: Health Affairs, vol. 27, no. 4 (June 3, 2008). Various pagings

Full text at: <http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/content/full/hlthaff.27.4.w270/DC1>

["In April 2006, Massachusetts passed legislation intended to move the state to near-universal coverage within three years and, in conjunction with that expansion, to improve access to affordable, high-quality health care. In roughly the first year under reform, uninsurance among working-age adults was reduced by almost half among those surveyed, dropping from 13 percent in fall 2006 to 7 percent in fall 2007. At the same time, access to care improved, and the share of adults with high out-of-pocket costs and problems paying medical bills dropped. Despite higher-than-anticipated costs, most residents of the state continued to support reform."]
[Request #S08-35-2486]

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Impacts of Climate Change in California: Community Vulnerability Assessments and Adaptation Strategies. Report No. 1: Heat-Related Illness and Mortality. By Paul English, California Department of Public Health, and others. (Public Health Institute, Oakland, California) March 2008. 49 p.

Full text at: http://www.phi.org/pdf-library/Heat_Vulnerability_2007.pdf

["Future heat waves may change geographic risk in California, due to lack of historic physiologic adaptability to cool. It is recommended that local health officials must focus efforts to prepare areas of the state not historically accustomed to heat. Foothill and mountainous communities throughout the state may be particularly subject to respiratory and heat stress due to lack of historic adaptability, higher ozone level, higher elevations, and increasing temperatures. Further degradation of air quality due to climate change will amplify occurrence and severity of known air pollution-related adverse health effects."]
[Request #S08-35-2239]

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HOUSING

REAL ESTATE LOANS

Defaulting on the Dream: States Respond to America's Foreclosure Crisis. By the Pew Center on the States and Pew Health and Human Services. (The Center, Washington, DC) April 2008. 48p.

Full text at:

http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Subprime_mortgages/defaulting_on_the_dream.pdf

[“One in 33 current U.S. homeowners may face foreclosure in coming years because of subprime loans. An additional 40 million homeowners may see property values and municipalities’ tax bases drop by as much as \$356 billion. Pew takes the first-ever comprehensive look at what states are doing to tackle this critical issue by focusing on two principal areas: helping borrowers avoid foreclosure, and preventing problematic loans from being made in the first place. Congress should build on, rather than pre-empt, the strongest state statutes, ensuring that states retain flexibility to respond to local conditions and needs.”]

[Request #S08-35-2401]

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HUMAN SERVICES

ADOPTION

Meeting the Mental Health and Developmental Needs of Adopted Children. By David Brodzinsky, Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute. (The Institute, New York, New York) February 2008. 18 p.

Full text at:

http://www.adoptioninstitute.org/publications/2008_02_Parent_Preparation.pdf

[“Noting the significantly higher risk of medical and psychological issues for children adopted from the child welfare system and abroad, this paper outlines the basic principles, key issues and methods forming best-practice standards regarding the preparation and education of adoptive parents. It finds that adoption agencies vary greatly in how much information they give adoptive parents, and that post-adoption support often comes from community programs that are inadequately prepared to address post-adoption issues. The institute calls for the ongoing education and training of adoption professionals and community-based mental health professionals.”]

[Request #S08-35-2236]

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Finding Families For African American Children: The Role of Race and Law in Adoption from Foster Care. By Susan Livingston Smith, Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, and others. (The Institute, New York City, New York) May 2008. 58 p.

Full text at: <http://www.adoptioninstitute.org/publications/MEPApaper20080527.pdf>

["Minority children in foster care are being ill-served by a federal law that plays down race and culture in adoptions. The report recommends that the law -- the Multiethnic Placement Act, which promotes a color-blind approach -- be amended to permit agencies to consider race and culture when selecting parents for children from foster care. Based on an examination of the law's impact over a decade, the report found minority children adopted into white households face special challenges and that white parents need preparation and training for what might lie ahead.... Supporters of the current law say it has led to an increase in transracial adoptions and a decrease in the amount of time minority children spend in foster care before being adopted." New York Times (May 27, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-35-2330]

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HOMELESS

Foreclosure to Homelessness: The Forgotten Victims of the Subprime Crisis: A National Call to Action. By Bob Erlenbusch, National Coalition for the Homeless, and others. (The Coalition, Washington, DC) April 2008. 60 p.

Full text at: http://www.nationalhomeless.org/housing/foreclosure_report.pdf

["The foreclosure crisis -- fueled by the subprime loan meltdown -- is increasingly well documented. Forgotten are the thousands of homeowners and renters who have become homeless once their equity is exhausted. NCH conducted an e-mail survey of homeless coalitions in late 2007 and early 2008. Over three fourths of the responses came from five states: California, Florida, Kentucky, Minnesota and Texas.... the states hardest hit by the subprime meltdown. Nearly 61 percent of respondents had seen an increase in homelessness since 2007. The majority were staying with family and friends...many were going to emergency shelters. Even more alarming, 41.6 percent... were already living on the streets."]
[Request #S08-35-2495]

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"Predictors of Homelessness Among Street Living Youth." By Natasha Slesnick and others. IN: Journal of Youth and Adolescence, vol. 37, no. 4 (April 2008) pp. 465-474.

Full text at: <http://springerlink.com/content/41w050676261r652/>

[“ Treating substance abuse and mental health problems may not be enough to help get homeless youth off the street. Creating opportunities for work, education and medical care were the most important factors in reducing homelessness. A study found that those with the most social stability.... who attended school or had a job.... reduced their homeless days over a six-month period. Youth who had a history of abuse or mental health problems were more likely to become homeless, but those same characteristics did not predict teens and young adults getting off the street six months later. These predictors of homelessness might be different than the predictors of exiting homelessness." ScienceDaily (May 12, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-35-2242]

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TRANSPORTATION

DRIVERS

Short-Term Effects of a Teenage Driver Cell Phone Restriction. By Robert D. Foss, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and others. (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, Arlington, Virginia) May 2008. 15 p.

Full text at: <http://www.iihs.org/research/topics/pdf/r1106.pdf>

["Targeting inexperienced motorists, several states have passed laws during the past five years restricting cell-phone use by teenage drivers. But a study that looks at whether teens are ignoring such restrictions contends that enforcement and parental influence are just as important as new laws.... Researchers who watched as high school students left school found that teenage drivers used their cell phones at about the same rate both before and after the law took effect.... In a phone survey, 95 percent of parents and 74 percent of teenagers supported the restriction. But 71 percent of teens and 60 percent of parents felt that enforcement was rare or nonexistent." San Francisco Chronicle (June 9, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-35-2455]

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HIGH-SPEED RAIL

Oversight Hearings of the California High-Speed Rail Authority. By the California Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing. (The Committee, Sacramento, California) June 2008. 33 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.senate.ca.gov/ftp/SEN/COMMITTEE/STANDING/TRANSPORTATION/home/FINALHSRREPORT.doc>

["The panel issued a stinging report questioning the financial assumptions made by the California High-Speed Rail Authority and urging significant changes to its plan to develop a 700-mile bullet train system. It said the authority needs to inform voters of those risks before they vote on a \$10 billion bond measure slated for the November ballot. Those include construction cost increases, less-than expected ridership or revenue, difficulty attracting private financial backers or acquiring land and the possibility that the state might have to subsidize the service. The president of the authority's governing board said the report would not affect the project and dismissed its findings." Contra Costa Times (June 5, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-35-2399]

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